

Why have our committees requested input from Advocacy? Simply because the office tells it like it is even if it puts Advocacy at odds with the administration.

This is the Office to whom this House of Representatives assigned new responsibilities of reviewing proposed regulations by Federal departments and agencies to identify those with anti-small business impact. Why did the House enlarge the duties of the Advocate? Simply because we know how effectively the Office has functioned as an advocate before other Federal offices.

Some critics have charged that Advocacy has been an abysmal failure in reducing the regulatory and paperwork burden.

Tell that to the small businesses which use simplified registration filings with the Security and Exchange Commission.

Tell that to the 4 million firms with less than 10 employees which will be able to use one simplified tax form for all wage and tax reports instead of up to 15 separate forms.

Tell that to the millions of small businesses which have a lesser burden in dealing with the Government.

And, when you tell them of this criticism, small businesses will tell you that the criticism is wrong. These small businesses will tell you that the Office of Advocacy is effective. They will tell you that is why that last month the White House Conference on Small Business as one of the top recommendations said that the Office should be permanently maintained as an independent entity.

I also want to point out that some of the criticism is not simply a difference in opinion. In some cases the facts used to support the criticism are wrong.

Criticism. Advocacy staffers helped created a brochure to lobby for President Clinton's health-care plan;

Fact. GAO reported that this is not true.

Criticism. Advocacy sent a letter to Congress arguing against tax relief for small businesses.

Fact. Advocacy opposed elimination of a special tax incentive to encourage investments in small firms. Advocacy did conclude, however that if the trade-off for the proposed reduction in capital gains tax rates was the elimination of the small business preference, small business would be better off if the rates were not reduced. The Office did support other parts of the tax bill which helped small business, such as increasing expensing, increased estate and gift tax credit and clarification of deductions for an in-home office.

Criticism. Advocacy "spent last Friday * * * faxing a 9-page 'Game Plan' to congressional offices outlining a lobbying strategy" to save the office, an activity characterized as illegal lobbying;

Fact. The document in question was an internal office document which was never used nor authorized for release to any congressional office. As far as we know, it was not sent to anyone, except for the one copy that was surreptitiously made available to a congressional critic of the office; and SBA's Inspector General has determined that the memo was not a violation.

A letter from the inspector general attached a memo from the assistant inspector general for investigations which concluded:

"Because there is no evidence of actual lobbying and no evidence contrary to the stated intent of the preparation of the document by

Mr. * * *, it is my recommendation this case be closed without a referral for prosecutive opinion."

Finally critics have asserted that small business associations are the "real independent voices for small business" and "do a better job of monitoring small business policy than the Office of Advocacy." These small business associations disagree.

Major small business organizations unanimously support continuation of the Office of Advocacy, including the National Association for the Self-Employed, the National Federation of Independent Business, National Small Business United, Small Business Legislative Council and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The Office of Advocacy has performed as a champion for small business interests when it has been given a chance to do so. This chance, however, was denied when President Bush left the Chief Counsel job vacant for years at a time. When it has received strong presidential support as it did from President Carter, who appointed Milt Stewart as the first Chief Counsel for Advocacy, or from President Reagan, who appointed Frank Swain as Chief Counsel, or from President Clinton, who appointed Jere Glover, the office truly serves as a champion for small business.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY A. FRANKS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendments which eliminate the Market Promotion Program in the Agriculture appropriations bill. The Market Promotion Program, a prime example of corporate welfare, gives millions of Federal dollars to multibillion-dollar corporations for the promotion of American products in foreign countries. During a time when so many Americans are asking to us to balance the budget, how can we keep funding corporate welfare in the guise of the Market Protection Program?

Four amendments to the Agriculture appropriations bill would either make cuts or eliminate the Market Protection Program. First, the Zimmer-Schumer amendment prohibits any of the bill's funds from being used to pay the salaries of persons who carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's market promotion program. Second, the Obey amendment cuts the bill's funds from being used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel for certain large producers who participate in the MPP. Third, the Kennedy amendment prohibits the CCC from using funds to promote the sale or export

of alcohol. Finally, the Deutsch amendment prohibits funds from being used to promote or provide assistance for mink industry trade associations. The amendments make the cuts in the Market Promotion Program to get the wealthy American corporations off of welfare.

The Federal Government and American taxpayers can no longer afford these corporate handouts. I urge my colleagues to support these amendments and eliminate the MPP.

IT IS TIME WE TRULY TAKE BACK OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to bolster our Nation's crime fighting efforts and to encourage citizens to get involved in crime prevention. I am joined in this effort by Congressman STUPAK, cochairman of the Law Enforcement Caucus—of which I am a member.

The Taking Back Our Neighborhoods Crime Fighting Act will give a \$50 tax credit to people actively involved in neighborhood watch groups and other organizations committed to the reduction of local crime.

I am proposing this tax credit because neighborhood watch works. It is the most effective crime reduction program available to our communities. Throughout the country, neighborhood watch groups have made people feel safer and more secure in their homes, parks, and streets.

Neighborhood watch establishes relationships among neighbors—and it establishes partnerships between neighborhoods and their police officers. Citizens are trained how to watch out for their families, monitor their neighborhoods, how to be observant and reliable witnesses, and how to assist their local police. Police chiefs and officers around the country firmly believe in neighborhood watch and have endorsed the idea of encouraging participation through tax credits.

Over the last decade, in my congressional district, we have pioneered the concept of community oriented crime fighting, and we have seen the difference it makes.

Serving on the San Diego Council for 5 years before I came to Congress, I worked hand in hand with residents to attack crime. We helped establish neighborhood watch groups. We went on walking patrols through the streets and created support networks among neighbors. We established drug free zones to keep dealers away from our schools. And we organized a graffiti patrol to clean up our neighborhoods and restore pride in our community.

We also worked directly with local police to create innovative crime fighting strategies. We instituted walking patrols in the streets, in the schools, and in the neighborhoods. Police officers got to know the neighborhoods they protected and the people in them. They talked to residents, and residents knew exactly who to call if they saw someone in trouble.

These efforts have been successful. During the last year in San Diego, we have seen a reduction of at least 10 percent in every major category of crime.